

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Faustina Smith-Neil, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Fisseha Adugna, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Melissa Daley, Fatmata Barrie and Jeremiah Pope.

Guests Present: Peter Fosselman, Mensa Magjogah, Brian Anleu, Victoria (Vikki) Garcia, Jose Segura, Luis Cardona, Rashad Price, Lt. John Fitzgerald, Lt. Joseph Onderko, Len Newman, Dan Wilhelm, Craig Wilson, Jack Siesko, Rob Richardson, Ed Weiler, Joan Burl.

Staff Present: Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh.

Approval of the March 1, 2017 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the March 1, 2017. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Presentations by Special Guests: Montgomery County Police Department's 3rd District Lt. John Fitzgerald and 4th District's Lt. Joseph Onderko, and Department of Health and Human Services Street Outreach Coordinator/staff, Luis Cardona, Jose Segura and Rashad Price, briefed the board on: Crime and Public Safety, Gang Activities, Prevention and Intervention in Eastern Montgomery County.

The following bullets highlight categories of crimes stats and related comments provided by MCPD:

- Auto thefts, homicide and sexual assaults
- Overall, there has been a recent decrease in thefts from autos in East County, which makes up the largest crime statistic
- Gangs and related issues seemed to have subsided at this time
- There have been some commercial burglaries, but not widespread.

The following bullets highlight presentation by DHS (Street Outreach Network) staff:

(A hard copy of their PowerPoint presentation entitled "A Culturally Based and Trauma Informed Approach for Addressing Youth and Gang Violence in the East County" was distributed during this meeting.)

- Rashad Price/Street Outreach Network (SON) East County Coordinator, spoke about the importance of mediation work with local gangs and related parties.
- SROs (School Resource Officers) are an important component in addressing gang and/or juvenile crime issues and should continue to be supported in the school system.
- Price holds weekly mentoring group meetings to assist at-risk youth with basic life skills and needs.
- Gang members participate in their SON-sponsored basketball team.
- Luis Cardona, Program Manager, provided an overview of best practices throughout the country as a comparison to Montgomery County practices.

- Biggest need is to provide a safe space for youth to decompress, relax, get mentoring and have fun.
- They feel the core of youth gang problem results from a lack of basic family support in their homes, poverty and/or emotional and/or physical neglect.
- Goals and/or current outreach includes but is not limited to: training residents in communities to be leaders, teach youth to develop their own life coping skills, establish gender specific outreach, reach out to parents and faith based churches for support.
- Their outreach is part understanding the importance of fostering an environment for these youths that allows them to maintain their ethnicity of their native country as well as the American culture.

ECCAB Board Members and Community attendees asked questions and/or made comments which were effectively addressed and/or acknowledged by presenters.

ECCAB Chairperson Update: ECCAB Chair Roy Chavera thanked Peter Myo Khin and Richard Romer for time dedicated to the process of developing ECCAB letters/statement relative to the Jesus House DC Cloverly Preliminary Plan and the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)Capital Improvement Program Amendment.

ECCAB Board Member Richard Romer briefed the board on the brief opinion survey and process he used for developing the BRT letter.

ECCAB Planning/Economic Development Committee Chair Update: Peter Myo Khin briefed on the status of the Jesus House DC development Preliminary Plan application and thanked PED members for support of the informational sessions for both parties. He briefed the board on the approved letter in support of the Planning Board's decision on this matter. A Montgomery County Department of Transportation presentation on traffic and safety related problems at US 29/Tech Road and Prosperity Drive is scheduled on April 12, 2018 and ECCAB board members are encouraged to attend and be part of the discussion along with businesses, stakeholders and residents of the area and MCDOT staff.

ECCAB Quality of Life Committee Chair Update: Samantha Blizzard briefed/advised that top priorities of the QLSI committee will be distributed at a later date.

Upcoming Testimony from ECCAB: ECCAB Chair Roy Chavera will testify on the BRT-CIP Amendment at the Montgomery County Council scheduled public hearing on April 18, 2017 on behalf of ECCAB. Peter Myo Khin will testify on behalf of ECCAB on the FY 2018 Operating Budget on April 6, 2017.

Council Staff Representative Brian Anleu briefed on matters including but not limited to the following topics: Council passed resolution supporting the County's Burtonsville Enterprise Zone Enterprise Zone application; Maydale Nature Center will re-open in June or July 2017; Good progress is being made on the FIX MD 198 project; the County Executive's FY 2018 Operating Budget; Plans to expand the Teens Works Program; and an upcoming expungement fair for teens.

Adjournment: This meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.